



**Recreation Department**

**PARK COMMISSIONERS**

Shirley Canniff  
Leslie Mayer  
Jen Rothenberg  
Phil Lasker  
Scott Walker  
Josh Fenollosa - Associate  
Sarah Carrier- Associate

**MEETING NOTICE**

The Park and Recreation Commission  
Tuesday, October 25, 2022  
7:00 PM - REMOTE MEETING via ZOOM

**AGENDA**

- 1) Open Forum – Public Comment
- 2) Pond Lane Project Proposal – Nicholas Boit
- 3) Menotomy Rocks Park Historical Commission Discussion –JoAnn Robinson, Peter Howard
- 4) Special Event Approval – N/A
- 5) Approval of Minutes – 10/11/2022
- 6) Comments and Items for Future Meetings:
  - a) Needs Assessment – Court Discussion
  - b) Off Leash Parallel Park
  - c) Open Space Plan
  - d) CPA Review with Planning – 11/8
- 7) Correspondence Received: Hills Hill (Natalie Delaria), Spy Pond Bikes on Path, (Karen Grossman), Hills Hill Public Process (Elaine Crowder), Eco Track(Brian McBride)
- 8) New Business

You are invited to a Zoom meeting.  
When: Oct 25, 2022 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Register in advance for this meeting:  
<https://town-arlington-ma-us.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcufumhpzggG9Qb0sSEmTORzHHIMoceOY0h>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Joe –

I hope this email finds you well. It has been a month since I stopped by your office. At your suggestions I am writing with our proposal to present to the town for the parcel of land that our property has been using for over 40 years.

When we bought 20 Pond Ln, the property has a parking area that was used by us and prior businesses that occupied the property for several decades since the garage was constructed in the 1960's. At some point in time an area was paved, and a wooden commercial guardrail installed to delineate the parking area from the other town land adjacent to our property. The curb cut was also moved at some point in time and now traverses part of the town property to access our own.

Over the past 5 years we completed renovating our property and would like to continue our efforts with the side parking area which is owned by the town. Since the crew team has been using the town property for several years, we find our privacy is dramatically impacted. While we certainly support the efforts of the Arlington/Belmont Crew, we would like to work to create a buffer zone between our property and the town land. The most logical place to do this is the paved areas on the southeast side of our garage.

I have attached some very basic drawings using two maps and various surveys to better understand what we are proposing. We would like to remove the existing asphalt and replace it with gravel for better water drainage. One of the challenges since we purchased the property is that we experience very heavy flooding with run off from Pond Ln and the adjacent condominium at 12 Pond Ln. I have met with town engineers and DPW which has not resulted in any solutions to the issue. What we are proposing will work towards address both water drainage issue and a buffer zone for privacy.

After the asphalt is removed and gravel laid for drainage, we propose planting 3-4 trees and a small hedge at the street. The trees would be water loving such as Yellow Birch or similar. We would also like to install a 6 foot fence along the new perimeter where the existing wooden guardrail is to provide additional privacy but also help prevent litter from blowing in our yard from the crew teams activities.

We are prepared to make the changes at our own expense. We are also prepared to purchase the small area in question if the town were open to that idea as well. All of this is meant to be talking points to get things started.

After having had a chance to review the information I am sending, feel free to reach out with any questions or have the town's attorney contact me directly.

All the best.

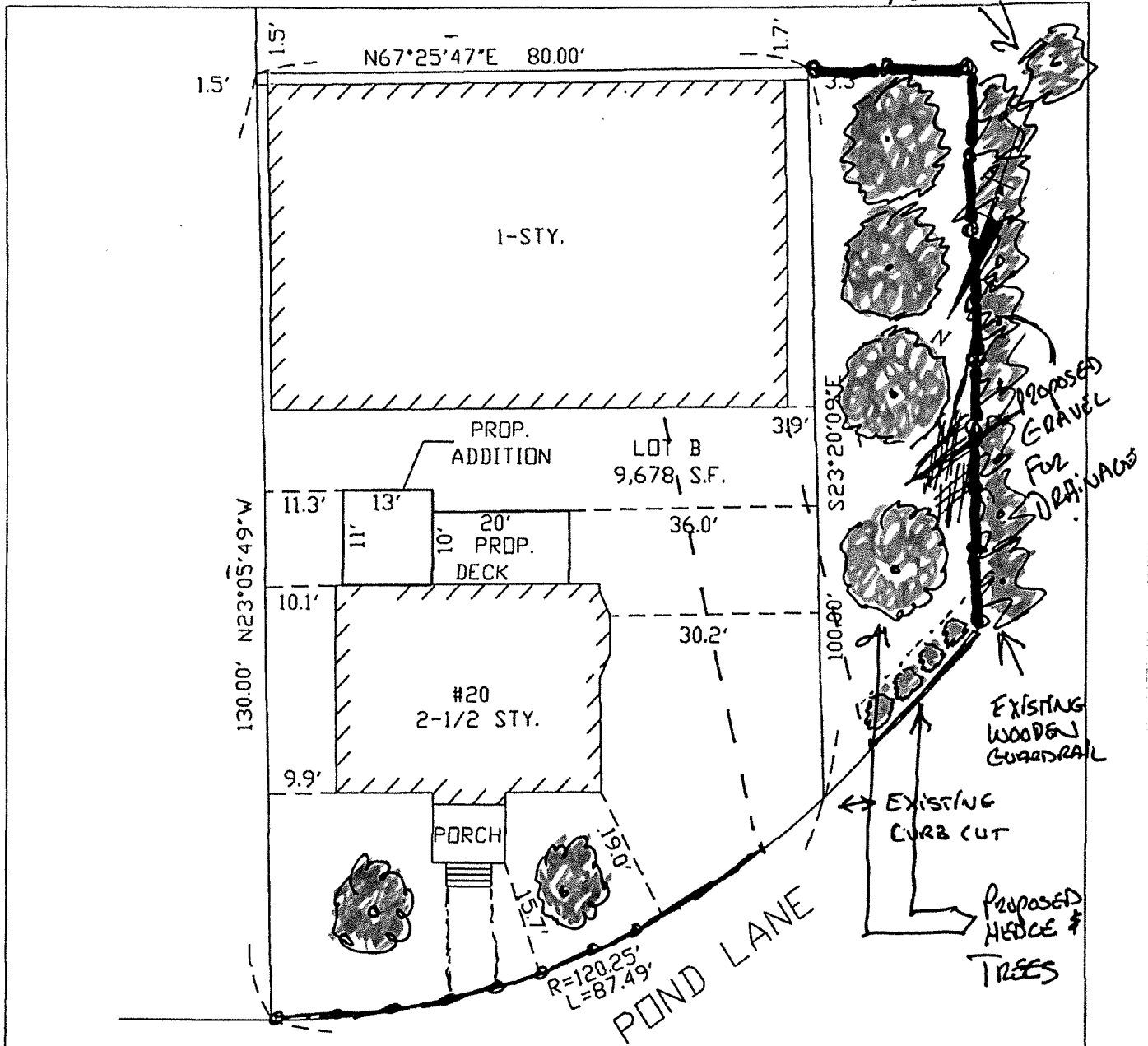
Sincerely,

*Nick*

Nicholas B Boit  
Pond Lane Realty Trust  
20 Pond Ln  
Arlington, MA 02474

Cell: 781-718-2518

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# NOTE:

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PLAN HAS BEEN PREPARED FROM AN ACTUAL ON THE GROUND INSTRUMENT SURVEY.



PAUL J. FINOCCHIO P.L.S. No.36115 DATE 4/25/17

## PLOT PLAN OF LAND IN ARLINGTON, MA

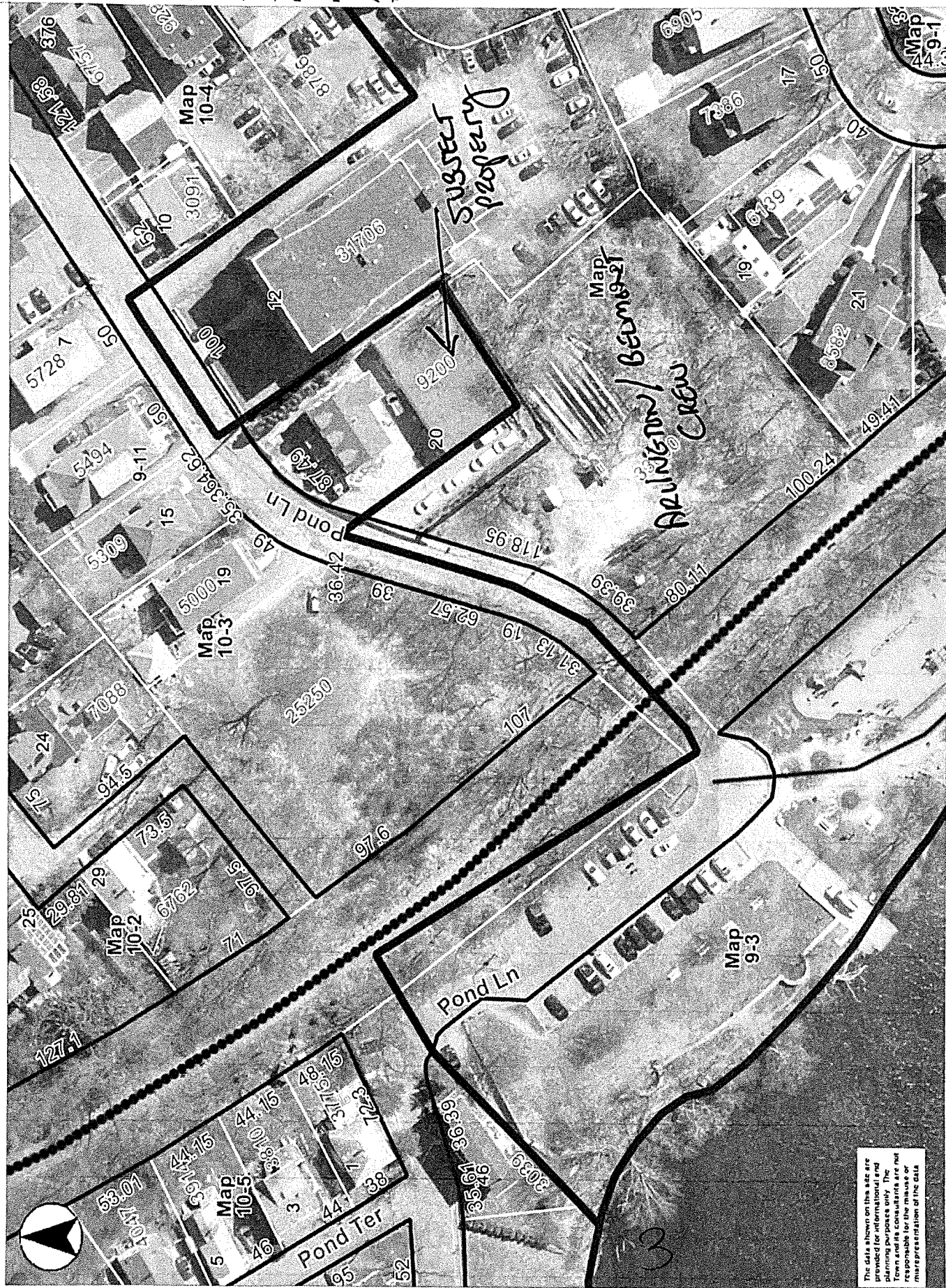
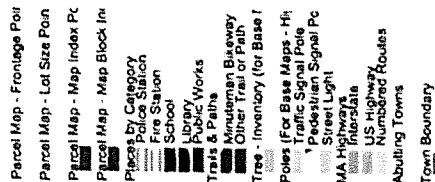
PREPARED BY:  
PJF & ASSOCIATES  
4 HIGHLAND AVE WAKEFIELD, MA  
PAUL J. FINOCCHIO-P.L.S.  
(781)883-5473

SCALE: 1" = 20'

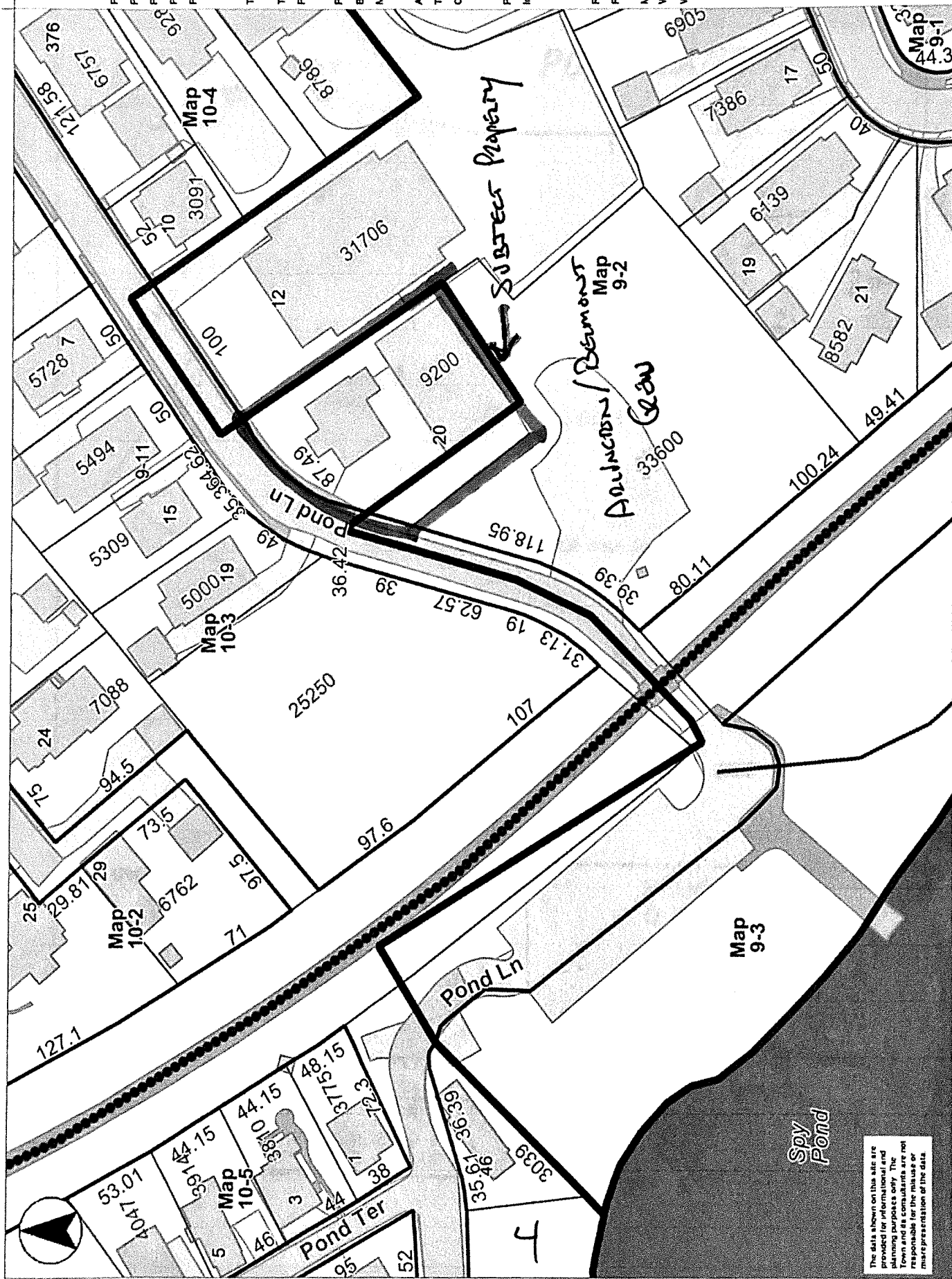
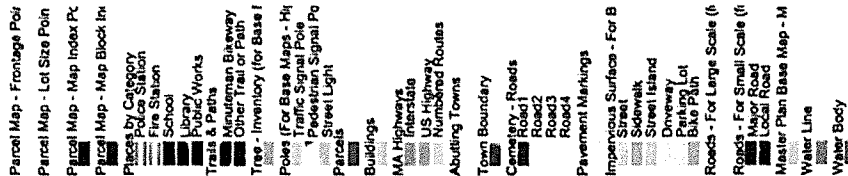
DEED REF.:

DATE: APRIL 25, 2017

FILE No.:6953

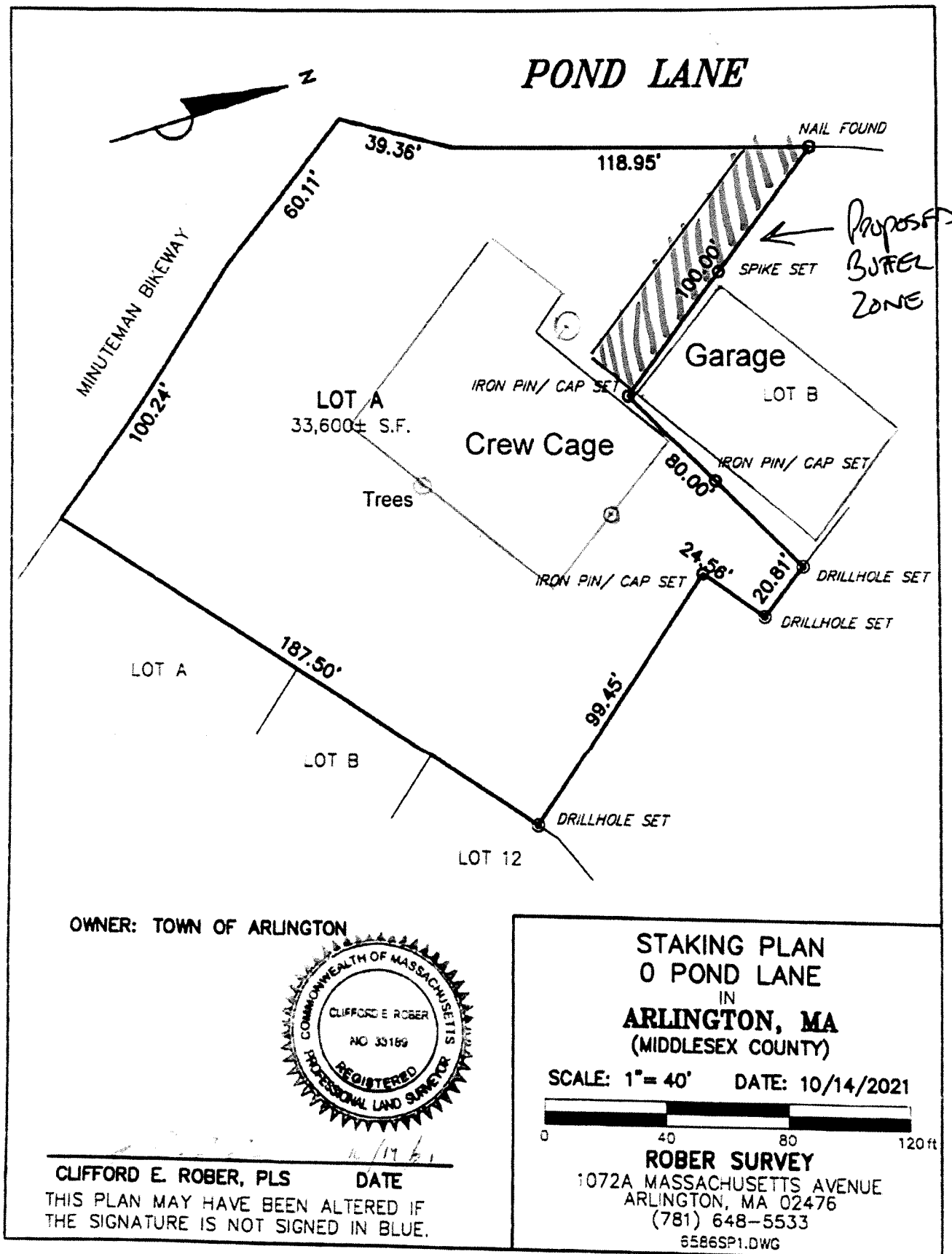


Assessor Map - Arlington, MA



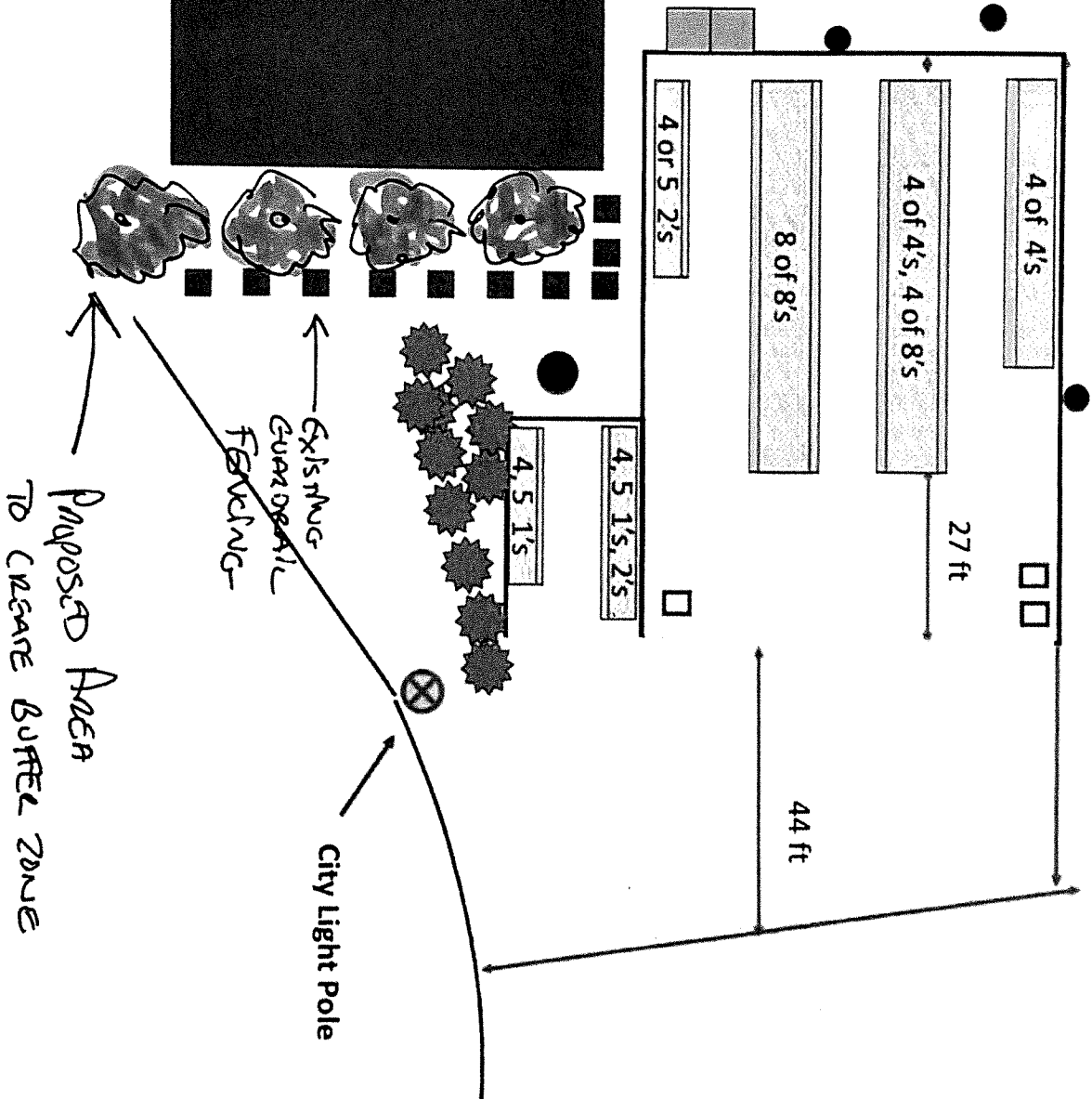
# Assessor Map - Arlington, MA





Jon Cage  
Suggestion 1

Current Boat  
inventory:  
9 eights, 6 fours,  
4 doubles, 6  
singles



**From:** JoAnn Robinson <robinsj@rcn.com>  
**To:** JConnelly <JConnelly@town.arlington.ma.us>, Judy Weinberg <judylynnweinberg@gmail.com>  
**Cc:** spooler <spooler@town.arlington.ma.us>, Jane Howard <phoward795@verizon.net>  
**Date:** 09/26/2022 02:27 PM  
**Subject:** Rectifying A Gross Abuse of Town - Resident Relations.

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Joe and Judy,

In a historic park there are reasons why benches and other old features are not removed even if they are not up to the current accessibility code. In this case, there are at least three accessible benches next to the two benches that have been torn down at the back of Hill's Pond. This is one way of preserving history as well as providing accessibility. Perhaps some adjustment to the original benches could be considered, but apparently this was not discussed.

Judy and Joe, and members of the Parks and Recreation Commissioner, know that Menotomy Rocks Park is listed on the Arlington Inventory of Historical Properties and should be aware that the park is currently being "surveyed" under a CPA grant to preserve its historic integrity.

The Menotomy Rocks Park: A Centennial History, written by Don Mattheisen in 1986, documents the preservation of the original uses and configuration of the park during its last major restoration.

Consideration of removing old features as well as changing the original uses of the park should involve both the Friends of Menotomy Rocks Park and the Historical Commission.

Please let us consider how this mistake can be remedied.  
JoAnn Robinson, Chair Arlington Historical Commission

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**From:** "Jane Howard" <phoward795@verizon.net>  
**To:** "JConnelly" <JConnelly@town.arlington.ma.us>, "Judy Weinberg" <judylynnweinberg@gmail.com>  
**Cc:** "robinsj" <robinsj@rcn.com>, "spooler" <spooler@town.arlington.ma.us>, joannrobinsonrobinsj@rcn.com  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 24, 2022 3:38:00 PM  
**Subject:** Re: A Gross Abuse of Town - Resident Relations.

Joe, Judy,

Joe

Thank you for your prompt reply. Glad to know that you thought the Friends knew all about it. Did Steve McHugh know that his bench would replace the recently renovated green benches? Did you get clearance from the Historic Commission to destroy those benches from the 1930s? Does your park maintenance crew usually leave the gate open?

Judy,

If you knew that the benches might be replaced at any time, why did you ask me to fix them? And what about the other 3 green benches? Do the Friends agree that one of the benches is very low & should be replaced? And that others are not of standard heights?

Pete

-----Original Message-----

From: Joe Connelly <JConnelly@town.arlington.ma.us>  
To: s <phoward795@verizon.net>; spooler@town.arlington.ma.us  
Cc: robinsj@rcn.com; judylynnweinberg@gmail.com  
Sent: Sat, Sep 24, 2022 11:29 am  
Subject: Re: A Gross Abuse of Town - Resident Relations.

Thanks Peter for your note.

Actually Judy Weinberg who I believe is the President of the Friends of Menotomy Rocks park did know about the plan to replace those benches as she was with me on the walk with one of the other Friends of Menotomy Rocks Park whom made the bench donation in honor of his late wife. There has always been a unwritten plan to replace the green wooden benches with new ADA accessible benches as donations come available. A majority of the green benches do not meet any accessibility code and are way too low due to erosion and settlement over the years. This donation was also publicly discussed by the Park Commission at their monthly meeting and the bench donation was posted on the agenda. Please see attached.

I will share your concerns with the Park Commission.

Joseph Connelly, M. Ed.

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Director of Recreation  
Town of Arlington

***Arlington values equity, diversity, and inclusion. We are committed to building a community where everyone is heard, respected, and protected.***

From: s <phoward795@verizon.net>

To: "spooler@town.arlington.ma.us" <spooler@town.arlington.ma.us>

Cc: "jconnelly@town.arlington.ma.us" <jconnelly@town.arlington.ma.us>, "robinsj@rcn.com" <robinsj@rcn.com>, "judyllynweinberg@gmail.com" <judyllynweinberg@gmail.com>

Date: Sat, 24 Sep 2022 02:15:08 +0000 (UTC)

Subject: A Gross Abuse of Town - Resident Relations.

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Dear Sandy,

I am reporting what I consider a gross abuse of Town property: Menotomy Rocks Park. The park had 5 concrete and wooden benches located beside the path that circles the Hills Pond 2 on the north side and 3 on the south side. They are positioned to give visitors a fine view of the pond. There are also 13 teak memorial benches. The abuse I am concerned with is to the 2 concrete and wood benches on the north side of the pond.

I discovered this afternoon that the 2 north side benches had been removed and replaced with nothing more than a concrete pad. I suppose that some 21st century bench will be installed. The Friends of Menotomy Rocks Park know nothing about the plans. The missing north side benches were repaired in late summer 2021. I know because at the request of the Friends, I did the work. I replaced decayed 2x8 planks, sanded the old planks, primed and topcoated. Until today they looked good. Many regular visitors agreed and thanked me. The Friends paid me \$582 for time & materials.

Not only is the Town's work a gross misuse of Town funds, but it is a violation of the authority of the Historical Commission. The benches were probably built in the 1930s by the WPA making them about 100 years old (Page 30, Menotomy Rocks Park, A Centennial History) and the Park is on the Commission's list.

In addition it is a gross abuse of Town authority to undertake this desecration without consulting or at least notifying the Friends of Menotomy Rocks Park.

As a final abuse, the workers left the Jason Street gate open.

I hope that you will cancel any plans to replace the other 3 benches, will confide in the Friends your plans for the new concrete pad, and establish a policy of including the Friends in plans for the park, a facility beloved by the many neighbors and their dogs.

Very truly yours,  
Pete Howard  
A resident for more than 50 years

**From:** s <phoward795@verizon.net>  
**To:** "spooler@town.arlington.ma.us" <spooler@town.arlington.ma.us>  
**Cc:** "jconnelly@town.arlington.ma.us" <jconnelly@town.arlington.ma.us>, "robinsj@rcn.com" <robinsj@rcn.com>, "judyllynweinberg@gmail.com" <judyllynweinberg@gmail.com>  
**Date:** 09/23/2022 10:15 PM  
**Subject:** A Gross Abuse of Town - Resident Relations.

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A resident for more than 50 years

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**MHC INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET**  
*MHC Inventory scanning project, 2008-2013*

MACRIS No. ARL 919



ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE of area. (Describe physical setting, general character, and architecturally significant structures).

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE of area. (Explain development of area, what caused it, and how it affected community; be specific).

Menotomy Rocks Park embraces 35 acres of land west of Jason Street's southern extension. It has been called "a most remarkable combination of hill, dale, woodland and grotto to be found within the limits of a suburb so close to the metropolis."

During the late 19th C., its land was part of the market garden farm of George Hill. In the Spring of 1884, he converted a swamp on the property to a reservoir, providing his farm with an independent water supply. The reservoir, later known as Hill's Pond, was hailed as "an improvement in the quite romantic place where it is located, near 'Devil's Den'". Devil's Den, a grotto, is one of the park's most picturesque natural features. Menotomy Rocks Park, initially known as Menotomy Woods Park, was formed in 1895. It continues to provide much-needed open "green space" for the densely settled residential areas west of Spy Pond.

Still extant is its original enclosing wall which is composed of stones taken from the "old time stone walls" which criss-crossed the Hill estate.

#### BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Arlington Advocate, page 1, col. 5, May 9, 1884.

page 8, col. 7, May 7, 1890

page 4, col. 2, Dec. 13, 1895

page 4, col. 3, May 20, 1898

page 4, cols. 2, 3, Aug. 12, 1905

1875 Beers & Co. Atlas

1884 Bird's Eye View of Arlington, Arlington Advocate

1898 Stadley & Co. Atlas

1923 Sanborn Map Co. Atlas

Arlington Directories of 1869/70, 1883, 1890, 1898, 1923

2M-6/80

ARL-969

FORM A - AREA

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
294 Washington Street, Boston, MA. 02108

Form numbers in this area <u>S</u>	Area letter <u>Z</u>
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Photo (3x3" or 3x5")  
Staple to left side of form

Photo number \_\_\_\_\_

Town Arlington, MA.

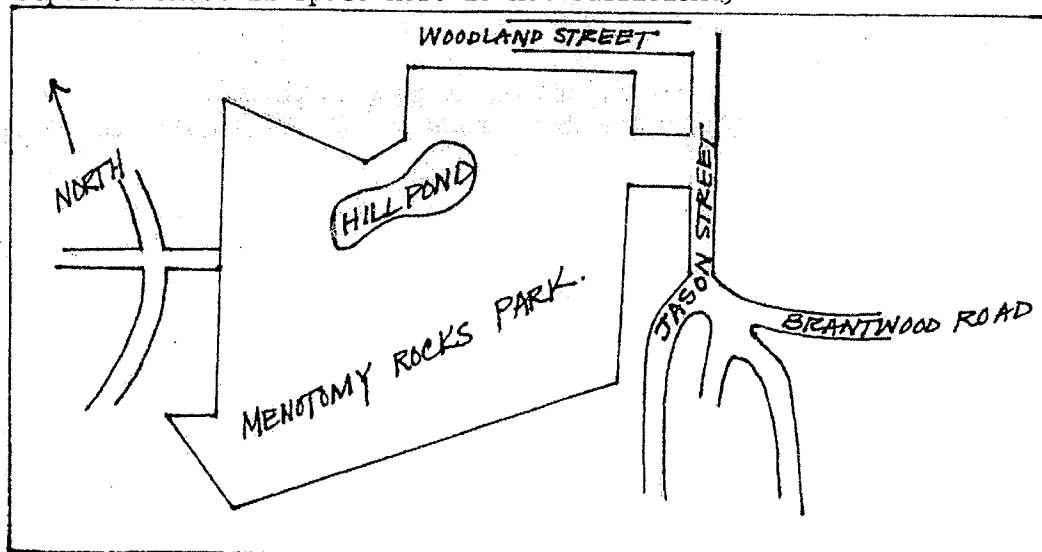
Name of area (if any) Menotomy Rocks Park

(Hill Pond)

General date or period Developed as park

in 1875.

Sketch map. Draw a general map of the area indicating properties within it. Number each property for which individual inventory forms have been completed. Label streets (including route numbers, if any) and indicate north. (Attach a separate sheet if space here is not sufficient)



Recorded by E. Gordon, N. Doonan

Organization American Landmarks, Inc.

Date November 7, 1980

13

(Staple additional sheets here)



# Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

## Scanned Record Cover Page

**Inventory No:** ARL.919  
**Historic Name:** Menotomy Rocks Park - Hill Pond  
**Common Name:** Menotomy Woods Park - Hill,  
George Market Garden  
**Address:** Jason St  
**City/Town:** Arlington  
**Village/Neighborhood:** Arlington Center;  
**Local No:** Z;  
**Year Constructed:** C 1875  
**Use(s):** Agricultural; Other Engineering; Park;  
**Significance:** Agriculture; Commerce; Conservation; Engineering; Recreation;  
**Area(s):**  
**Designation(s):**  
**Building Materials:**  
**Demolished** No



The Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) has converted this paper record to digital format as part of ongoing projects to scan records of the Inventory of Historic Assets of the Commonwealth and National Register of Historic Places nominations for Massachusetts. Efforts are ongoing and not all inventory or National Register records related to this resource may be available in digital format at this time.

The MACRIS database and scanned files are highly dynamic; new information is added daily and both database records and related scanned files may be updated as new information is incorporated into MHC files. Users should note that there may be a considerable lag time between the receipt of new or updated records by MHC and the appearance of related information in MACRIS. Users should also note that not all source materials for the MACRIS database are made available as scanned images. Users may consult the records, files and maps available in MHC's public research area at its offices at the State Archives Building, 220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, open M-F, 9-5.

Users of this digital material acknowledge that they have read and understood the MACRIS Information and Disclaimer (<http://mhc-macris.net/macrisdisclaimer.htm>)

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Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Massachusetts Historical Commission  
220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125  
[www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc](http://www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc)

This file was accessed on: Monday, September 26, 2022 at 8:43 AM

14

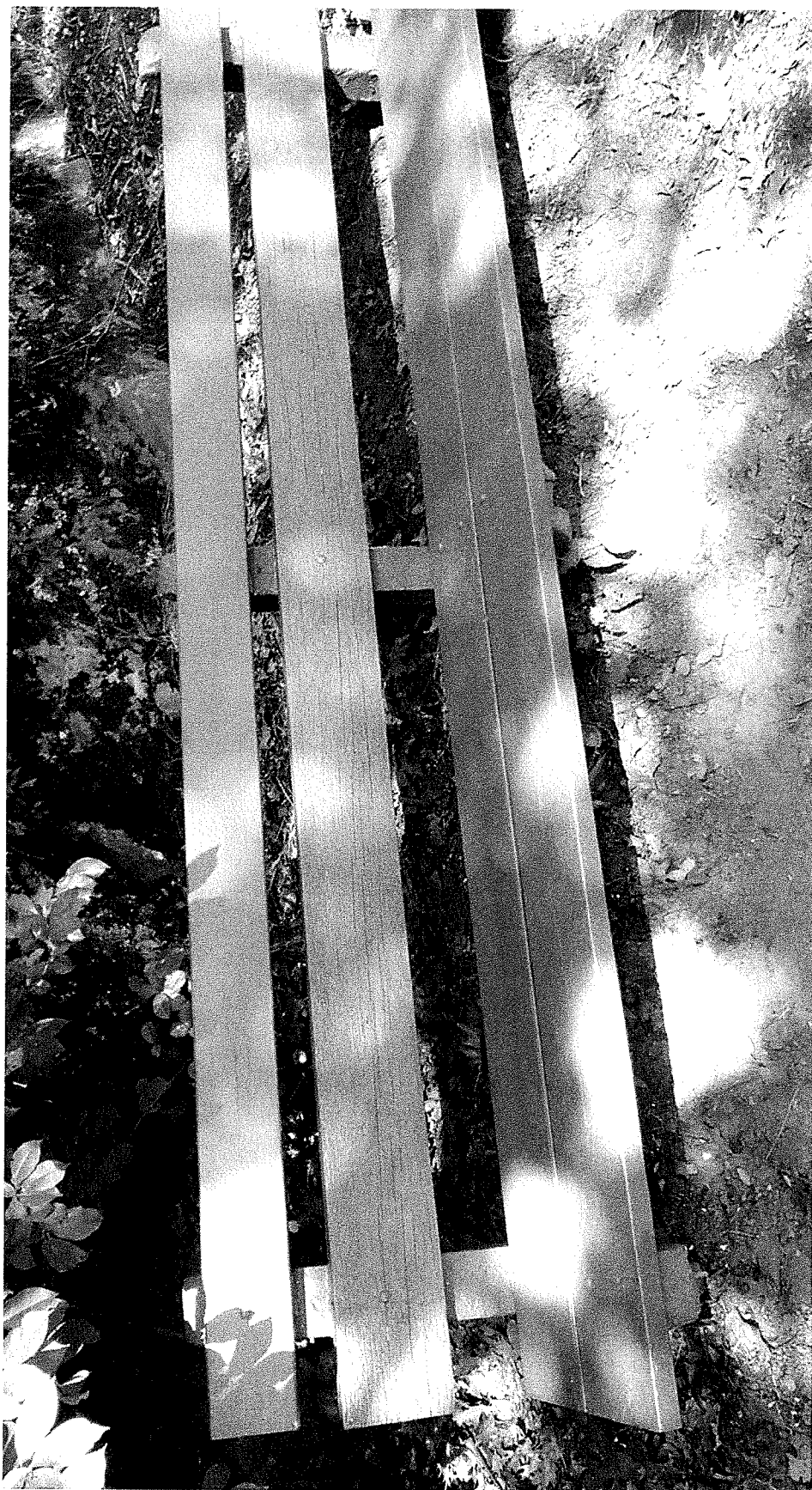
# Introduction

- Pete Howard
- 57 year resident on border of Menotomy Rocks Park
- Retirement occupation Home Handyman  
20yrs
- Hired by the Friends of Menotomy Rocks Park to maintain benches

# The Benches of Menotomy Rocks Park

- Original benches
  - Concrete legs & back support
  - Wooden plank seats & backs painted green
  - Installed 1930s
  - Traditional public bench design
  - 5 located around Hills Pond
- Ref: D. Mattheisen, *Menotomy Rocks Park A Centennial History*

# An Original Bench



# The Benches of Menotomy Rocks Park

- Memorial Benches

Teak wood

Unpainted

Installed in early 2000s

Intricate design using mostly peg fasteners

13 located in Commission-approved locations

Ref: P. Thomas, *The Benches of Menotomy Rocks*

# Original Benches

- I was hired in 2021 by Friends to renovate all 5
- Three completed that summer
  - Replaced weathered planks
  - Sanded all planks
  - Primed & top-coated
- One completed this 2022 summer
- Park visitors approved



# Recent Developments 9/23/22

- Town workers destroyed 2 original benches on north side of pond
- Replaced with concrete pad big enough for 1 bench
- No formal notice to the Friends
- No review by Historical Commission

# Benches North Side of Hills Pond

## Early 9/23/22



# Bench Location North Side Hills Pond

Late 9/23/22



## Subsequent Findings (1)

- A memorial bench donor had come forward
- An informal visit had been made to the park
  - The Commissioner
  - The donor
  - The Chair of the Friends
- A new bench location was discussed during the visit

## Subsequent Findings (2)

- The Commissioner explained
  - He is concerned that none of the benches are ADA compliant
  - The new bench was approved at a recent Parks & Rec meeting
  - An “unwritten plan” exists to
    - Replace all the original benches
    - When a donor comes forth

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# Conversation with the Donor

- He has no clear understanding of the appearance of the new bench
- He was not aware of the condition of the original bench
- He was not aware of the history of these benches



# Recommendation

- Commission develop a formal policy concerning the original benches
  - Procedure to request agreement from Friends of Menotomy Rocks Park
  - Procedure to require approval by Historical Commission
  - Procedure for authorizing maintenance
  - Procedure for authorizing replacement

## ARLINGTON PARK & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING MINTUES

*October 11, 2022*

The Town of Arlington Park and Recreation Commission came to order for its online virtual meeting via Zoom on Tuesday October 11, 2022 at 7:00pm.

**Commission Members:** Phil Lasker, Leslie Mayer, Jen Rothenberg, Scott Walker, Sarah Carrier and Josh Fenollosa. Shirley Canniff was not in attendance. Recreation Director Joe Connelly was also present.

**Anticipated Speakers:** Teresa Marzilli

**Preliminary Matter:** Phil Lasker, Park & Recreation Commission Chair, took formal attendance via a roll call and read a statement pertaining to Governor Baker's Public Meeting Law change due to COVID-19 regarding virtual meetings. Meeting business ground rules and procedures were also covered by Mr. Lasker.

**Open Forum: N/A**

**Introduction of Teresa Marzilli** : Ms. Marzilli was invited to tonight's meeting to introduce herself to the Commission as the new Community Outreach and Engagement Coordinator with the Division of Health and Human Services. Her role includes, but is not limited to, auditing policies and procedures for inclusive housing and language access as well as providing educational workshops for town employees. Ms. Marzilli looks forward to working with the Commission for equitable community engagement.

### **Capital Project Updates :**

- Spy Pond and Parmenter Playgrounds – There is a construction meeting for Parmenter tomorrow. Equipment is being installed at Parmenter this week. Rubber installation is scheduled for the end of the month. Equipment is also being installed at Spy Pond. Rubber surfacing installation is questionable, pending time and temperature.
- Robbins Farm Playground – Landscape Architects has accepted the contract and begun the design phase. A working group meeting will be scheduled for next week. The Deputy Town Manager has contacted Mr. Connelly about hiring the company for the Brackett School project. Due to the proximity of Brackett School to Robbins Farm, the idea is to have the project design and equipment complement each other.

Mr. Connelly, Ms. Mayer, Ms. Rothenberg and Ms. Garnett all visited Danehy Park / Cambridge Universal Playground. They all shared how impressed they were with how the design incorporated accessibility and fun for multi-generational enjoyment. Ms. Rothenberg will share photos and videos she took of her visit with the Commissioners via email. The Commission discussed some of the attributes of the park including "dignity exit platforms" and accessible water filling stations. Ms. Rothenberg did some research on the Canada-based design company. Jim Hempe, representing Friends of Robbins Farm Park, stated that he is on the project working group and recommended that Commission members also visit, or look up, Martin's Park in Boston's Seaport District, which is another good example of fun, accessible playground.

- Reservoir Phase II – Small punch list; bridge handrails, fishing pier signage, plantings. The pathway connecting to Hurd and the ramp to Drake Village are complete. Plant health will be revisited in the spring.
- Bishop/Stratton/Peirce – Bishop passed inspection and is fully open. There is a small punch of Level 1 issued to address in addition to sealcoating and painting which will be completed in the spring. Mr.

20 61

Connelly has arranged an exchange for a larger tot swing. Whitney Roberts, a Bishop neighbor, shared that the community loves the new playground. She thanked Mr. Connelly and the Commission for their responsiveness and assistance during the renovation.

A full crew is completing the grading work, hot tops and cement pathways at Stratton. Inspection is tentatively planned for the end of October.

The crew from Stratton will move to Peirce once work is complete. Equipment is on site and will be installed once site prep is completed. The temporary use of wood fiber has been approved for the fall and will be installed at the end of October due to temperature restrictions. Poured in place pavement will be installed in the spring. Mr. Connelly noted that both firms were a pleasure to work with and made it a priority to allow for maximum use during construction.

- Hurd – Mr. Lasker attended the last project meeting and shared the following information; pruning work has been completed, most plantings are in place but due to unforeseen circumstances some will be planted in the spring, posts for the backstop have been installed, concrete and lighting work will continue this week, new sheds will be delivered next week. Once the perimeter paving is complete, work will begin on the field. Installation of a bottle filling station has been approved. A single unit filling station will be installed at the entrance near the bike rack area. The area is equipped with permeable pavers and will connect to the existing main.
- Poet's Corner – Town and Archdiocese signed off on boring testing which will begin tomorrow on both the town and Archdiocese land parcels. Ms. Mayer asked if the wetland survey was complete. Mr. Connelly will follow up.
- CPA Requests FY2024 – Turkey Hill signage, Menotomy Rocks Park picnic and playground renovation and Hill's Hill MBP.

Menotomy Rocks Park history, bench placement and renovation details will be discussed at a future meeting.

Several pieces of correspondence received were added to the agenda packet concerning Hill's Hill. Additional correspondence was received after the agenda was posted and will be on the next agenda. Mr. Connelly reviewed the process for the attendees beginning with application for CPA funding, the design and public input process and Town Meeting and Finance Committee involvement. If funding is awarded, the design process will begin in July 2023 for all three projects. Mr. Connelly noted that discussions and suggestions about trees were premature at this stage but that public input meetings are always scheduled as part of the design process. Ms. Mayer, the Commission's CPA representative, shared a list of other projects identified in this year's CPA packet that could impact Park and Recreation property. Projects include – a feasibility study at 21 Pond Lane (used by A-B Crew), an invasive management plan at Spy Pond including the purchase of a harvester machine, and a project to remove invasive species at the Ryder Street bikeway access which may impact the fencing at Summer Street field. Ms. Rothenberg questioned how projects are submitted without consulting Mr. Connelly and receiving approval from the Commission.

Brian McBride shared that "strong public sentiment expressed concerns about installing a pump track in the woods" at Hill's Hill. Mr. McBride's comments were supported by Beth Melofchik who also expressed her continued concern about the potential impact on the tree canopy. She also shared displeasure that funds were being allotted for projects that she felt didn't have public support when the money could be used in other ways to offset costs and overrides. Mr. Connelly explained the legislation governing the use of CPA funds stating that unused CPA funds must be used for CPA projects and cannot be reallocated to Capital or the town operating fund. Ms. Melofchik stated that she wanted it noted that she continues

to be against the project. Elaine Crowder requested to see the description of the CPA project submission and inquired about how categories and allocations are determined. Ms. Mayer identified the three CPA categories - historical, recreation/open space and housing. She also explained that the committee must allocate a minimum of 10% of funding to each category and has the authority to determine how the remaining funds are allocated.

Ms. Garnett shared that invasive species removal is taking place at Ryder Street. Ms. Crowder stated that it was a volunteer project that Mr. Connelly was aware of and did not impact the Summer Street fencing.

**Approval of Minutes:** Ms. Mayer made a motion to approve the minutes of September 27, 2022, seconded by Mr. Walker.

Roll call vote:

Ms. Mayer – YES

Mr. Walker – YES

Ms. Rothenberg – YES

Mr. Lasker – YES

Approved 4-0.

**Special Event Approval :** N/A

**Correspondence Received:** Several letters of support for Hill's Hill were received from town residents. Mr. Fenollosa noted that most of the letters were from eager youth looking forward to using the space. There were also letters expressing concern for the project. Additional correspondence was received regarding Reservoir path bike riding, off-leash hours at Parallel Park and artificial turf.

**Comments and Items for Future Meetings:** The Open Space and Recreation Plan will be discussed at the next meeting. An agenda item will also be added for a discussion with the Historical Commission and Menotomy Rocks Park. Mr. Connelly stated that he reached out to Town Counsel regarding the off-leash dog request at Parallel Park. Town Counsel will be reviewing the conditions of the lease agreement and will advise whether Mr. Connelly should reach out to DCR.

**New Business:** N/A

Mr. Walker motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:07pm, seconded by Ms. Rothenberg.

Roll call vote:

Ms. Mayer – YES

Mr. Walker – YES

Ms. Rothenberg – YES

Mr. Lasker – YES

Approved 4-0.

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The Arlington Park & Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes were respectfully submitted by Deanna Stacchi.

**From:** Natalie DeLaria <ndelaria@achs.net>  
**To:** Joe Connelly <JConnelly@town.arlington.ma.us>  
**Date:** 10/11/2022 06:21 PM  
**Subject:** Re: Feasibility study- public input- Hills Hill

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Good evening,

Unfortunately, I have to work again tonight.

Reiterating my disapproval of this proposal.

(Single use activity of common space.)

Natalie DeLaria

On Wed, Aug 3, 2022 at 1:45 PM Joe Connelly <[JConnelly@town.arlington.ma.us](mailto:JConnelly@town.arlington.ma.us)> wrote:

Thanks Natalie

Joseph Connelly, M. Ed.  
Director of Recreation  
Town of Arlington

***Arlington values equity, diversity, and inclusion. We are committed to building a community where everyone is heard, respected, and protected.***

From: Natalie DeLaria <[ndelaria@achs.net](mailto:ndelaria@achs.net)>  
To: [jconnelly@town.arlington.ma.us](mailto:jconnelly@town.arlington.ma.us)  
Date: Wed, 3 Aug 2022 13:44:30 -0400  
Subject: Feasibility study- public input- Hills Hill

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Good afternoon!

I cannot log in for the Zoom meeting this evening and would like to express my extreme DISAPPROVAL of the current proposal for Hills Hill.

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I'd like to see this green space remain just that- green space. There are very few spaces which preserve nature in town. Also, sports and activities for kids have literally taken up all park space most times spring through fall



**From:** Karen Grossman <fspp@friendsofspypondpark.org>  
**To:** Joe Connelly <JConnelly@town.arlington.ma.us>  
**Cc:** margoboston <margo\_boston@yahoo.com>, Lally Stowell <lallystowell@icloud.com>, Adrienne Landry <alandryartist@verizon.net>  
**Date:** 10/12/2022 11:48 AM  
**Subject:** Re: Concerns re bike riders / ebike riders using Spy Pond Park pathwas as if it was the Bike Path - help!!!

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Joe,

The Friends of Spy Pond Park would support this change, as we have also noted the danger in using the path through the park for vehicles: any bikes or motorized scooters.

We have noted many near accidents with the pedestrian path, too. Redirection signage is important since the park has become a natural extension of the bike path at Linwood St.

continuing through the park at dangerous speeds. That's why the bike racks were designed at either end of the park, to discourage this activity on a pedestrian walkway.

We have received commentary that with wider new bikes the current rack posts aren't spaced properly. Please seek guidance from the bicycle advisory group for replacement

of the racks in Spy Pond Park to increase better bike parking options. Please let us know when this item is placed on the agenda for discussion at a meeting of the Commission.

Thanks,

Karen L. Grossman

President

Friends of Spy Pond Park


781-646-5990

On Oct 12, 2022, at 11:15 AM, Joe Connelly  
<[JConnelly@town.arlington.ma.us](mailto:JConnelly@town.arlington.ma.us)> wrote:

I will pass this request on to the Park Commission. As of now there are no restrictions for path use, so this would be a policy change.

Joseph Connelly, M. Ed.  
Director of Recreation  
Town of Arlington

***Arlington values equity, diversity, and inclusion. We are committed to building a community where everyone is heard, respected, and protected.***

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From: margoboston <margo\_boston@yahoo.com>  
To: "fspp@friendsofspypondpark.org" <fspp@friendsofspypondpark.org>,  
"jconnelly@town.arlington.ma.us" <jconnelly@town.arlington.ma.us>  
Date: Wed, 12 Oct 2022 14:38:27 +0000 (UTC)  
Subject: Concerns re bike riders / ebike riders using Spy Pond Park pathwas as if it was the Bike Path - help!!!

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Hello -

Help! There are too many bike riders - many using large, heavy electric bikes - at Spy Pond walkway between Linden and Pond Streets. Yesterday a rider came within inches of hitting of a man in a wheelchair. Today - two riders - both on electric bikes nearly hit a toddler. The mother and toddler were walking along and the ebike riders were cruising along at a high rate of speed as if it was the middle of Mass Ave.

There is going to be a serious accident with injuries. Can you put signage at the entrance at both Linden and Pond Streets that riding non bikes or scotters not allowed at Spy Pond Park? Redirect them back to the bike path which is where they should be in the first place. That path is not meant for cyclists, especially not ebikes.

Margaret Barrett  
Arlington

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**From:** margoboston <margo\_boston@yahoo.com>  
**To:** "fspp@friendsofspypondpark.org" <fspp@friendsofspypondpark.org>, "jconnelly@town.arlington.ma.us" <jconnelly@town.arlington.ma.us>  
**Date:** 10/12/2022 10:38 AM  
**Subject:** Concerns re bike riders / ebike riders using Spy Pond Park pathwas as if it was the Bike Path - help!!!

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Margaret Barrett  
Arlington

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**From:** Elaine Crowder <ecrowder@communication-exchange.com>  
**To:** Joe Connelly <JConnelly@town.arlington.ma.us>  
**Date:** 10/06/2022 02:45 PM  
**Subject:** Thanks for the conversation re: PRC Design Process

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Park and Rec Director Joseph Connelly & Park and Recreation Commission

Dear Joe,

In reflecting further on our recent phone conversation about the PRC design process, I'm realizing that I very much appreciated hearing that one step includes producing several designs to present for public discussion. Having options to consider is incredibly important. And ensuring that these options **reflect feedback provided to date** is a critical piece of securing public trust in the process.

For example, as more community members have become aware of the Commission's mountain biking plans at Hill's Hill, and as they understand more what a pump track is, the commission has heard significant objection to placing the pump track in the woods.

1. How will the Commission remain responsive to this sentiment?

I urge the Commission to identify an alternate location for the pump track portion of the project, a location that will not compromise functioning open space habitat under the Commission's protective care.

2. How will the Commission incorporate (and make public), both in substance *and* spirit, the feedback provided by the public from this feasibility stage?

I would be interested in seeing for example, a list of design principal questions that includes all aspects of Park and Rec's mission - park/open space preservation as well as recreational concerns (e.g. "How can we build for safety?" "How can we best build to preserve the natural assets and habitats at Hill's Hill?" "How can we build to support the Engineering Department's rainwater infiltration goals?")

What does it mean to be responsive to the spirit of public feedback? To take one example, receiving the suggestion to move the pump track closer to the bike trail for both ease of access and **to take pressure off the woods**, and responding

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by **adding** skills elements along the bike trail and keeping the pump track in the woods ignores the spirit of the suggestion.

3. Will there be a summary of the design features the Commission plans to request for the chosen architect to include as he fleshes out design options? And will this summary be made public before/during selection of a design firm, with an opportunity for open dialogue?

These are some of the questions I have about the Commission's process. I look forward to speaking with you further to learn these and other details of your process.

We would also like to carve out time with you and available commissioners to discuss an ecologically responsible approach to constructing trails in the woods.

I believe this project has the potential to be an innovative standout in the region, one that garners professional recognition by responsibly evaluating the existing native ecosystem at Hill's Hill and using this evaluation to guide all aspects of design!

What a great thing if Arlington can lead the way in such an innovative approach that simultaneously preserves wild areas of a park while expanding recreation potential! It's a win-win. That way Arlington youth can ride Hill's Hill woods to chill, and a separate pump track for thrills.

Respectfully,

Elaine Crowder  
TMM Pct. 19

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===

Elaine Crowder, Ph. D.  
Communication Exchange



**From:** Brian McBride <brianmcb@outlook.com>  
**To:** Joe Connelly <jconnelly@town.arlington.ma.us>  
**Date:** 10/10/2022 06:12 PM  
**Subject:** Hill's Hill and Community Preservation Act Request

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Dear Joe and PRC members,

I'd like to ask that the PRC request for CPA funding for the Hill's Hill project include language reflecting the Eco-Track approach.

This would ideally include a reference to the three key pillars:

- \* Pump track located outside the Hill's Hill woods
- \* Low impact/eco-friendly trails
- \* Habitat restoration funded and supported by community projects / partnerships.

I believe this is the intent of the commission. It is consistent with the public feedback. A count of the letters on the PRC website for example, has 47% supporting Eco-Track by name or relocation of the pump track outside the woods. Including language along these lines would assure supporters of the compromise that funding philosophy reflects that community input – subject, of course, to the future public input sessions during design.

Thanks for your collaboration with the community.

Brian McBride  
m 617-645-8729  
brianmcb@outlook.com

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